

April 17, 2018

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ—ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Subject: *United States of America v. Placer Mining Company, Inc. (dba New Bunker Hill Mining Co.) and Robert Hopper, Jr., D.J.* Ref. No. 90-11-3-128/3

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

Please consider this letter a strong support for the settlement that can once again encourage the safe development of our mining resources and once again provide jobs and an economical environment free of fear from the EPA.

At one time the Bunker Hill complex was one of the largest employers in the Silver Valley with over 2500 employees. The Bunker Hill mine was a small component of the complex yet it provided for several hundred good paying jobs.

Having worked for Shoshone County for 46 years and a past Shoshone County Commissioner, I have dealt with many of our local health issues. During my time as a Shoshone County Commissioner, I was also a Director for the Panhandle Health District. My experience on the Panhandle Health District Board has made me very confident the EPA has adequately addressed the heavy metal issues in the Silver Valley as evidenced by our lead levels below EPA guidelines.

As a Commissioner, I also sat in on many efforts to try to stimulate the economic base of Shoshone County. Unfortunately, many of those efforts fell short because investors feared future liabilities associated with past mining contamination issues. That issue has remained a large cloud over economic development in the Silver Valley for the past several decades. Furthermore, it will continue to restrict investment and development until the EPA finds a way to insulate future investors from past liabilities. The Bunker Hill Settlement is a step in that direction.

Yours truly,

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